

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (New): A method for enhancing recovery after surgery and improving the functional recovery of the heart which method comprises administration of an effective, non-toxic amount of a glucose uptake enhancer to a human or non-human in need thereof.

Claim 7 (New): A method according to claim 6, wherein said surgery is cardiac surgery.

Claim 8 (New): A method according to claim 6, comprising acute administration of said glucose uptake enhancer.

Claim 9 (New): A method according to claim 6, wherein said human is age 60 or older.

Claim 10 (New): A method according to claim 6, wherein the glucose uptake enhancer is administered before surgery.

Claim 11 (New): A method according to claim 6, wherein the glucose uptake enhancer is administered after surgery.

Claim 12 (New): A method according to claim 6, wherein the glucose uptake enhancer is a thiazolidinedione.

Claim 13 (New): A method according to claim 12, wherein the thiazolidinedione is 5-[4-[2-(N-methyl-N-(2-pyridyl)amino)ethoxy]benzyl]thiazolidine-2,4-dione, or the tautomeric form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

Claim 14 (New): A method according to claim 12, wherein the thiazolidinedione is selected from the group consisting of: troglitazone, ciglitazone, pioglitazone or englitazone; or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

Claim 15 (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable derivative is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

Claim 16 (New): A method according to claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a maleate.

Claim 17 (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable derivative is a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate.

Claim 18 (New): A method according to claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable solvate is a hydrate.

Claim 19 (New): A method according to claim 13, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable derivative is a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.